

1                   PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC DEVICE WITH  
2                   METHOD OF PREVENTING READBACK

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9           It is sometimes desirable to protect a design used in a PLD from being  
10 copied. If the design is stored in a different device from the PLD and read into the  
11 PLD through a bitstream, the design may be encrypted as it is read into the PLD  
12 and decrypted within the PLD before being loaded into configuration memory  
13 cells for configuring the PLD. According to the invention, in such a device, a  
14 method is provided to prevent the design from being read back from the PLD in  
15 its decrypted state if it had been encrypted when loaded into the PLD.  
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